

BELLE GROVE SQUARE

WEST GREEN STREET

The Belle Grove Square area consists of a grassy lot consisting of about 24,000 square feet donated by the Matthews family and the houses which front it, with two churches, on West Green Street, Bond Street and Park Avenue in Westminster. The central plot labelled "Park" on the 1876 plat of the City, and the 29 lots which surround it are all part of the area known as "George W. Matthews Addition to Westminster".

The lots contain buildings that reflect architectural developments in Westminster during the past century. Few houses today standing possess the same appearance when the square was laid out, except possibly number 11 Park Avenue. Thus it is possible to see progression in taste and fashion, from the very simple German Church Parsonage on Bond Street to much more elaborate pile such as that at the corner of Green Street and Bond Street, or through 7 Park Avenue, to the large and still traditional pair of houses 30 and 34 West Green Street.

The area called Park was recently relandscaped for the Bicentennial in 1976, and now consists of a central circular fountain with brick walk area around and with radiating paths off in all directions. The lot is shaded by a massive ash and maple trees some of which are doubtless survivors of the original square, some of which were recently replanted.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

QARA 478
MCI#051493007

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Belle Grove Square

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

West Green Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Carroll

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___DISTRICT

___BUILDING(S)

___STRUCTURE

☒SITE

___OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒PUBLIC

___PRIVATE

___BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___IN PROCESS

___BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

___OCCUPIED

☒UNOCCUPIED

___WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒YES RESTRICTED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___NO

PRESENT USE

___AGRICULTURE

___COMMERCIAL

___EDUCATIONAL

___ENTERTAINMENT

___GOVERNMENT

___INDUSTRIAL

___MILITARY

___MUSEUM

☒PARK

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___RELIGIOUS

___SCIENTIFIC

___TRANSPORTATION

___OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Westminster

Telephone #: 848-9000

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21157

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building

Liber #: 48

Folio #: 161

STREET & NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Westminster Bicentennial Celebration

DATE

October 1964

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ☒LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Historical Society of Carroll County

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

CARR-478

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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Some photographs exist showing the park a generation or two ago revealing that, while in a less pristine condition than it is now, it has always maintained a similar open woodsy atmosphere, and has been a display case for several eras of Maryland architecture, domestic and religious.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

CARR-478

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1877; 1976

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As indicated in the answer to question 7, one clear significance of Belle Grove Square is as a showcase for local building patterns of several generations. All the most common and important styles at present, from a simple three-bay two-story single pitched roof rowhouse to a large - towered wide-porched piles of the early 20th century. Further, the square is important as a pleasant rare piece of greenery in the City.

Its also interesting to think of the whole as a local variation of the Grosvenor-style of development that characterized other cities at a broad. George W. Matthews and wife owned this tract of land buying it from the Boyles in 1866 for \$3000. (Carroll County Deed Book 33, Page 409). Matthews laid out the 30 lots, nearly all of which front the central square, and began selling them off to builders, reserving lot no. 27 for himself. Then, on March 5, 1877 he appeared before the City Council and "voluntarily tended them a lot of ground near the Reformed Church to be used with the public square and to be under the control and management of the Corporation of Westminster." (Minuted of Westminster City Council.) Various issues were discussed such as whether or not a fence should be erected, before the deed was finally presented from Matthews and wife to the Council on May 7, 1877: "the Council was much impressed by the manner in which the deed was presented, which was received by the president of the Council in name of the people and in motion of thanks duly moved and seconded and carried unanimously thanking Squire Matthews and wife for their noble gift". the City still owns the lot, and it is still open for the use of citizens. (A note that here, as elsewhere, the central grassy area was originally thought to be used only for the citizens who owned lots fronting it, but was later turned open to all.) The lot was recently given a sprucing-up as part of the Westminster's observance of the United States Bicentennial in 1976, and act carried out under the aegis of the City by a local garden club.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being that half acre site labelled "Park" as shown on a plat recorded among the Real Estate and Mortgage records of Carroll County in Book 3, Page 55.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks, Consultant

August, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

116⁰/₀



CANAL ~~IDE~~ 479

Belle Grove Square

Westm., Ia

~~169~~ #170

116⁰⁷/₀

P. 99-101



CARR-478



CLX

169

~~481~~

(behind tree)



CARR-478

(CARR-452 circled in blue ink)